



8060 165th Avenue N.E., Suite 100
Redmond, WA 98052-3981
425 558 4224
Fax: 425 376 0596
www.nwccu.org

July 12, 2019

Dr. Rosannette Rimando-Chareunsap
President
South Seattle College
6000 16th Avenue, S.W.
Seattle, WA 98106

Dear President Rimando-Chareunsap:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) at its meeting on June 19-21, 2019, concerning the Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation of South Seattle College. This action was taken after consideration of evidence, including the institution's Self-Evaluation Report, the Peer-Evaluation Report, the optional Institutional Response to the Peer-Evaluation Report, and information received as part of the institutional representative meeting with Commissioners.

Accreditation

- Reaffirm Accreditation

Status of Previous Recommendations Addressed in this Evaluation

- Recommendation 5: Fall 2009 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability - *Fulfilled*
- Recommendation 1: Fall 2013 Year Three Resources and Capacity Evaluation - *Fulfilled*
- Recommendation 2: Fall 2013 Year Three Resources and Capacity Evaluation - *Continued as needs improvement* as Recommendation 1 of the Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation
- Recommendation 3: Fall 2013 Year Three Resources and Capacity Evaluation - *Continued as Non-Compliant* as Recommendation 5 of the Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation

Commendations

The Commission commends South Seattle College for:

1. The development of Guided Pathways.
2. Its innovation and adaptability in the context of unpredictable and limited resources.
3. Creating a pervasive climate that prioritizes and promotes student success.
4. Its comprehensive and integrated approaches to diversity, equity and inclusion, such as use of and commitment to Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and Inclusion Advocates, which are achieving demonstrable successes.

Recommendations Out of Compliance

The Commission finds that the following Recommendations are areas where South Seattle College is out of compliance with the NWCCU Standards for Accreditation. According to U.S. Department of Education Regulation 34 CFR 602.20 and Commission Policy, Commission Action Regarding Institutional Compliance Within Specified Period (enclosed), the Commission requires that South Seattle College take appropriate action to ensure these Recommendations are addressed and resolved in the prescribed two-year period.

The Commission recommends that South Seattle College:

3. Regularly reviews and documents assessment, of course, program, and degree student learning outcomes (including general education learning outcomes), and ensures that the results of assessments are used to inform planning and practices that enhance and improve student learning. (Standard 4.A.3, 4.B.2).
5. For each year of operation, completes an external financial audit and the results from such audits, including findings and management letter of recommendations, be considered in a timely, appropriate, and comprehensive manner by the Board of Trustees (Eligibility Requirement 19 and Standard 2.F.7).

Recommendations Substantially in Compliance but in Need of Improvement

The Commission recommends that South Seattle College:

1. Continues to refine indicators of achievement (e.g., KPI's) to ensure they are aligned, relevant, and meaningful and that they map closely to the institution's mission, goals, and objectives (Standard 1.A.2, Standard 1.B.2).
2. Identifies and publishes expected course, program, and degree learning outcomes for all degrees and programs (Standard 2.C.2).
4. (*revised*) Expediently develop and implement a plan for systematic review of all policies (Standard 2.A.6. and Standard 2.A.18).

Required Follow-Up

- Ad Hoc Report without a visit Fall 2020
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 5: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation with Addendum Spring 2022
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability

Future Evaluations

- Ad Hoc Report without a visit Fall 2020
 - Recommendation 3: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 5: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation with an addendum Spring 2022
 - Recommendation 1: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 2: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
 - Recommendation 4: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability
- Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability Evaluation Spring 2026

July 12, 2019
Page 3 of 3

NWCCU is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. If you have questions about any of the information in this letter, please contact your staff liaison, Senior Vice President Pamela Goad.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Ramaswamy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sonny" being more prominent.

Sonny Ramaswamy
President

SR:pg

cc: Mr. Greg Dempsey, Accreditation Liaison Officer
Dr. Lori Stinson, Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability, Committee Chair